

THE
Moral and Religious Cabinet.

"To aid the cause of Virtue and Religion."

Vol. I.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1803.

No. 26.

INDUSTRY, PIETY, CONTENTMENT AND CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

RECENTLY, at Horsely-Woodhouse, lived George Crofts ; by business he was a stocking-weaver ; and occasionally a preacher, in the General Baptist connection. He was poor, but industrious, honest, and truly pious. He earned his bread in the six days appointed for labour, and on the Sabbath preached the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ ; until a weight of years, with a burden of affliction, rendered him incapable of walking to his frame.—Possessing an independent spirit, he still determined his own hands should minister to his necessities ; therefore, when he could no longer *walk*, he was *carried* to his seat where he worked : But growing years, and increasing infirmities, in a while, rendered him quite incapable of further efforts to procure the necessaries of life. He was then supported by the benevolence of his friends. At one time, however, his store of provision was reduced so low, that his wife announced, they had nothing for dinner. "*Nothing !*" said he, "No, nothing ;" replied she. "*Nothing !*" returned the good man, with a tone of surprize. "No ;" the affectionate woman again replied, "Nothing, excepting a turnip, and a small piece of butter."—"Well !" rejoined the venerable Sufferer "Prepare that. It is *quite* sufficient. The Lord will send us more, when it is necessary. He knows that I continued at my labour as long as I could ; therefore, he will not suffer me to starve now my strength faileth !" That evening, Mr. T. G. Baptist Minister, near Ilkston, was passing on a road he had frequently travelled, and which he knew well ; nevertheless, to his great surprize, he missed his way, and soon found himself in a small village he did not know. Enquiring the name of the place, he was told it was

Horsely-Woodhouse. This he knew was the place of residence of G. Crofts. He enquired where he lived, called upon him, and amply supplied all his wants. Some time after this, Death made his final attack. The worthy Veteran encountered this his last enemy, in the Name and Faith of Jesus, through whose blood he was more than conqueror. Thus lived and died G. C. being a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus, and a favoured witness of the truth of that infallible promise, "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

LETTER FROM MRS. H. TO MRS. S.

My dear Friend,

WHEN we consider how long we lived in sin, at an immense distance from GOD, the slaves of Satan and the world, and the sport of a thousand temptations and foolish desires, we cannot help being astonished at the wonderful love of Christ, in awakening our consciences, plucking us as brands from the fire, and saving us from inevitable ruin. What an inestimable privilege, to know Jesus to be our hiding place from the scorching wind, and a covert from the horrible tempest; in whose arms of mercy we may dwell safely! O thou bright Sun of Righteousness, who veiled thy divinity in a tabernacle of human flesh, and was content to become a despised man for our sakes, how shall we worthily adore and magnify thy boundless love! O shed abroad thy sweet influences upon our hearts. Raise and purify our souls, and teach us continually to go out of ourselves, and trust in Thee, our righteousness, and our Strength. Help us to put on thy spotless nature, to be clothed with the graces of thy blessed Spirit as a complete covering; and implant in us thy meek and lowly mind, that we may walk worthy of thee in all well-pleasing, and that we may never be a reproach to thy holy Gospel.

O may we never more offend

The SAVIOUR's glorious eyes;

But walk with our indwelling Friend,
Unspotted to the Skies :
Obtain th' Inheritance prepar'd
For all the Sons of Grace ;
And find our fullimmense Reward,
In our REDEEMER's Face.

My dear Friend, let us constantly pray for an increase of faith, humility, and love ; but let us beware of mistaking unbelief for humility, or lukewarmness for solidity. Let us ever seek after the power of godliness in our own souls, even that Grace which transforms us into the likeness of our living Head ; without this, every other attainment will be unprofitable. We must be led by his blessed Spirit into all Truth ; our Will brought into a coincidence with his Will ; so that we may obey without reluctance, and suffer without murmuring. The continual cry of our hearts should be, "LORD, what wouldst thou have us to do." The Almighty cannot look upon sin with any allowance, and yet he is pleased, of his abundant mercy, to pardon the short-comings of those who serve him with perfect sincerity of heart. I remain your sincere friend and servant,

M. H.

A REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE.

ABOUT the year 1794, the Methodists attempted to introduce the gospel into Garstang Church-town, Lancashire. They happily in the end succeeded ; though for a considerable length of time, they had to endure a very violent opposition. Among the foremost to give proof of their hatred to religion, were two inn-keepers, who used their utmost influence, and attempted various means to prejudice the people, prevent their attendance, and thereby obstruct the spread of divine truth. How exceedingly well it would have been for these persons to have noticed the wise counsel of the Jewish doctor, who, when Peter and the other apostles were seized for preaching Christ, said, "Refrain

from these men, and let them alone ; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought : but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it : lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." But it is too evident this advice was neglected ; for the keenest reproaches were vented against the people, and the vilest abuse profusely poured upon the preachers. Yet, notwithstanding all this, the place of meeting continued to be crowded with hearers, which the two individuals before-mentioned, did not observe, but with great and increased mortification.

On a certain sabbath, when the preaching was ended, and the auditors were peaceably retiring, one of these men was heard to say with considerable earnestness, "Never mind ! I'll engage to get a greater congregation than the Methodist parson ;" adding, "We'll have a cock-fight." This impious determination, for the moment was consolatory, and as it held out a prospect of eventual success, was highly applauded by the other. But what is man ! How insignificant his designs ! how impotent his strength ! and how ill-fated his attempts when opposed to that Being, who is infinite in wisdom, boundless in power, terrible in judgment, and who frequently reverses and suddenly renders abortive the immature projects of the wicked !

A few days after the avowal of his intention, the inn-keeper sickened, and was called from this world to account for his stewardship. Preparations were made for his funeral ; the day of interment arrived ; the bell's sullen toll had announced it ; a concourse of people attended ; the procession passed just by the preaching-house, where a *few* had assembled together ! And the relator was struck with the awful coincidence, as the scene that presented itself, had occurred *on the day*, and *exactly at the time* the deceased had engaged to "get a larger congregation than the Methodist preacher !" How unsearchable are thy judgments, O God ! It is almost unnecessary to add, that the surviving persecutor was so affected by this alarming circumstance, that he afterwards exclaimed, "I will never again, on any account, disturb this people." Nor did he to the day of his death.

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